



**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/648,320 Confirmation No. 5324
Applicant : Kohzo TAKAHASHI et al.
Filed : August 27, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1773
Examiner : Vivian Chen
Dkt. No. : IPE-028-009
Cust. No. : 20374

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 16, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 16, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2004. A petition for a three-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested for the reasons explained below.